

The MCA Advisory

The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America

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Next meeting:
January 8, 2011
Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, City

From the Editor

Starting with the January issue, The Advisory will be published out of the editor's home. We will probably switch to some form of electronic delivery at that time. The miracle of the Internet will permit us to maintain the number of color pages, which are extremely expensive were we to use a standard printer.

Recognizing that we have some members who are technology averse, we will probably offer a printed alternative but at a premium price. If you want to continue receiving The Advisory for the present membership fee, make sure to send your e-mail address to Tony Lopez at tonycharl@comcast.net

The MCA meeting held at the Massachusetts Historical Society was such a runaway success that we are inspired to plan more such events going forward. Perhaps our January meeting at the Waldorf in New York could be followed by a sandwich lunch. If only the Carnegie Deli were close by, but perhaps one of our New Yorkers can suggest a venue.

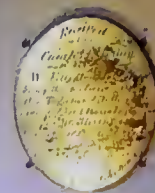
Those unable to attend our meetings missed an absolutely superb 10 case exhibit mounted by Anne Bentley. Anne prepared descriptions of the contents of each case and may have a few sets of these descriptions left. Try her at abentley@masshist.org

REPEAT: Send your e-mail addresses to:
tonycharl@comcast.net

We include a few photos from ANA 2010. For Paul Bosco, see next page.



Charles E. Anthon (aka "Mr. Stevens") received the 1867 Liberty Seated silver dollar as change from his purchase of 24 lots at W. Elliott Woodward's auction of Joseph J. Mickley's numismatic collection in 1867. Mr. Anthon had a jeweler efface the reverse of the coin and engrave this information as a keepsake.



Barry/John,

I wanted to share these pictures with you from my visit with Paul when I was in New York just before the Boston ANA show. Paul's shop should be on the pilgrimage list for all medal collectors!

Best,

Tony Lopez



Book Review (by John W. Adams)

***The Extravagant Ambassador*, Earle Havens and Pierre-Alain Tilliette editors, Boston 2007**

We are indebted to Warren Baker for calling our attention to the above book. He discovered it on a visit to the Boston Public Library to view the Washington Before Boston medal in gold. Scendipity strikes again.

The Extravagant Ambassador is a compendium of articles on Alexandra Vattemare, a little understood legend in numismatics. An outgrowth of the extraordinary Vattemare exhibit mounted by the BPL in 2006, this book is a compendium of articles examining the many facets of a truly fascinating individual. Theologian, surgeon, actor and numismatist as well as an unquenchable advocate of cultural exchange, Vattemare makes for rare reading. The numismatic chapter, authored by Dr. Alan Stahl of Princeton University, is worth the modest \$38 price of the book alone.

Medal collectors should be particularly interested in this work. Vattemare authored the first published book on American medals in 1861: "Collection de monnaies et Medaules de l' Amerique du Nord de 1652 à 1858." This book is quite rare but "*The extravagant ambassador*" is easily obtained by sending a check for \$43 (\$38 for book and \$5 for postage and handling) to: Boston Public Library, Business Office, P.O. Box 286, Boston, MA 02117.

Badges of the Tammany Society or Columbian Order of New York (by Margi Hofer)

The political machine known as Tammany Hall, notorious in the late nineteenth century for the corrupt exploits of William M. "Boss" Tweed, began with the more wholesome mission of fostering national patriotism. Incorporated in New York City in 1789, the Society of St. Tammany took its name from the Lenni-Lenape chief Tamanend (ca. 1628-1698), known for encouraging peaceful relations between Native Americans and the English settlers who established Pennsylvania. The broad-based Tammany movement originated in Philadelphia in 1772 and spread to several southern cities before taking hold in New York in 1786. One of the

chief activities of the Society's early years was organizing celebrations, including the annual festival honoring Saint Tammany, the Fourth of July, and Evacuation Day. The Tammany Society or Columbian Order—as the New York Society was christened—adopted pseudo-Native American traditions, including dressing in Indian garb, wearing face paint and carrying tomahawks and peace pipes in public parades, and conferring titles such as Grand Sachem and Sagamore. The group even referred to its meeting place—in the early years Edward Bardin's City Tavern on Broadway—as their “wigwam.”ⁱ

Officers and members of the Tammany Society were required to wear official badges to identify themselves at meetings. Research into a rare specimen at the New-York Historical Society and examination of the Tammany bylaws held in the Historical Society library has revealed new insights into these unusual badges. The N-YHS example is a silver uniface badge of slightly domed shape. The obverse is engraved “BEWARE,” above an image of a coiled rattlesnake, “Octr 12th 1492,” and, around the edge, “Where Liberty dwells there is my Country.” The reverse has traces of the original suspension mounts and a later copper strap.

The Tammany Society passed an act on January 11, 1790, specifying the design and iconography of badges worn by members and officers. A total of eleven badges, each with distinct imagery and motto, are described in the bylaws. In addition to the one intended for members, the bylaws itemize badges for each officer: Sachem, Grand Sachem, Treasurer, Secretary, Father of the Council, Scribe, Sagamore, Alank, Okemaw, and Mackawalaw

(see list below for descriptions).ⁱⁱ The member's badge, “to be worn at the breast button hole of the Coat,” was to feature a snake with thirteen rattles “in a defensive posture” and a motto, “BEWARE”, signifying that “the Sons of Columbia and Tammany punish an insult.” Its reverse was to represent Columbus's Landing, the date October 12, 1492, and the motto “WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS there is my COUNTRY.”ⁱⁱⁱ A distinctly New World species, the rattlesnake had become a potent symbol of American liberty. Typically depicted with thirteen rattles representing the original colonies, the symbol derived from the European image of a segmented serpent that Benjamin Franklin borrowed for his famous emblem of American unity, the disjointed snake with the motto “Join, or Die.”^{iv} The Tammany Society combined the rattlesnake with the date of Christopher Columbus's first sighting of the Bahamian island of Guanahaní, the mythical “discovery” of America. The organization's amalgamation of Native American and European symbols and ideas represented an attempt to forge a new national identity from the “best and noblest aspects of Europe and America.”^v

Tammany badges were produced in both precious and non-precious metals. The Society avowed that, “as a lesson of the economy and virtue that are necessary to

ⁱ Information on the early history and practices of the Tammany Society can be found in Alfred Connable and Edward Silberfarb, *Tigers of Tammany* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1967), 26-31, and Gustavus Myers, *The History of Tammany Hall* (New York: By the author, 1901), 4-10.

ⁱⁱ Alank, Okemaw, and Mackawalaw were honorary titles given to the honorary officers elected by the thirteen Tammany tribes.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bylaws of the Society of Tammany or Columbian Order in the City of New York, June 25, 1810. Typescript of original manuscript, Edwin P. Kilroe Collection of Tammaniana, vol. 22. 20-21, N-YHS Library. It is unclear why surviving badges are uniface rather than two-sided, as specified in the bylaws.

^{iv} David Hackett Fischer, *Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America's Founding Ideas* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 75-82.

^v Donald A. Grinde, Jr., and Bruce E. Johansen, *Exemplar of Liberty: Native America and the Evolution of Democracy* (Los Angeles: American Indian Studies Center, UCLA, 1991), viewed at http://www.ratical.org/many_worlds/6Nations/EoL/chp9.html chapter 9, 1-28.

perpetuate the welfare of a republic,” all badges would be engraved in copper, tin, or iron. Members were free to purchase badges in gold or silver at their own expense and to have the motto engraved in any language.^{vi} In 1814, the Tammany Society appointed a committee to obtain badges for members, and in June of that year they presented a revised design, noting that an engraver had deemed the original version too complex. Later that month, “plate” (silver) for the badge had been obtained and badges were made available to members for twenty-five cents.^{vii} The N-YHS badge and the other surviving engraved examples, all uniface examples in silver, may well represent the 1814 simplification of the original design. Tammany Society records do not specify the shape or size of the badges. However, the convex shape of the silver member’s badge is reminiscent of Indian trade moons—silver neck ornaments worn by Native Americans—and may be a deliberate imitation of Native American costume.^{viii}

The N-YHS specimen, purchased from military Americana expert William Guthman in 1982, is one of only a small number to survive. Four other silver examples engraved in a similar hand are documented, including one that was included in Stack’s Minot Collection sale in 2008. A sheet-iron version with a painted design is also extant.^{ix} An example of

the Mackawalaw badge was published in 1913, although its current location is unknown.^x Two specimens also survive of a related silver medal, composed of two struck shells, with the same mottos but slightly different imagery. The medal’s die was cut by New York City silversmith John Pearson, who was active between 1789 and 1813.^{xi}

Caption: *Tammany Society member’s badge, 1790-1815. Silver, 69.85 mm, 25 grams. New-York Historical Society, Gift of Robert G. Goelet, 1982.106.*

Description of badges in the Tammany Society bylaws, passed January 11, 1790:

- 1) Sachem: Star badge. Motto, “Let There Be Light.”
- 2) Grand sachem: Circle of stars encompassing an altar inscribed, “To Freedom,” and suspended by a chain from the neck. Motto “Preserve By Concord.”
- 3) Treasurer: An upright key, crossing the beam of a poised scale, and a surrounding Glory. Motto: “Honesty is the Best Policy.”
- 4) Secretary: A pen crossing a key. Motto: “Bring to Light.”
- 5) Father of the Council: A drawn sword in his right hand and a lamb on his breast. Motto: “Encourage.”
- 6) Scribe: A closed book surrounded with a Glory. Motto: “Sacred.”
- 7) Alank: A quadrant and an American flag. Motto: “Unite Mankind.”
- 8) Okemaw: A Tomahawk and pipe, crossing. Motto: “Ready for Either.”
- 9) Mackawalaw: A plough, harrow, and the cap of Liberty. Motto: “True Riches.”
- 10) Members: On one side a snake with thirteen rattles in a defensive posture. Motto: “Beware.” The reverse to represent Columbus landing, date

^{vi} Bylaws, Kilroe Collection, vol. 22, 22.

^{vii} Minutes, June 6, 1814, and June 27, 1814, Tammany Society Records, 1807-1817, N-YHS Library.

^{viii} Martha Wilson Hamilton, *Silver in the Fur Trade 1680-1820* (Chelmsford, Mass.: By the author, 1995), 66-67.

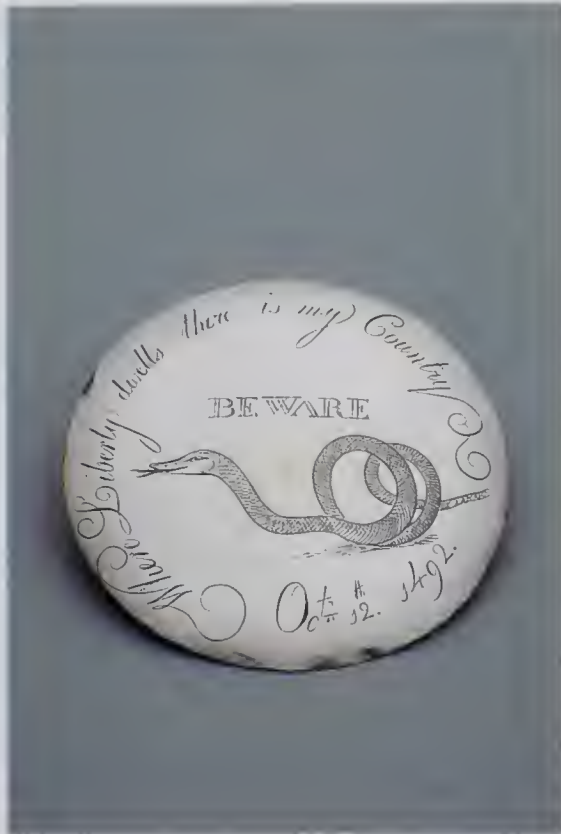
^{ix} For silver versions, see Stack’s, The Minot Collection sale, May 21-22, 2008, lot 703; Northeast Auctions, William Guthman Collection of Americana, October 12, 2006, lot 267A; also illustrated in the *The American Society of Arms Collectors Bulletin* 81 (1999): 22; Massachusetts Historical Society; and private collection. I am grateful to Vicken Yegparian of Stack’s for bringing these examples to my attention. For the painted sheet iron version, a uniface oval measuring 4 x 4 ¾ in., see <http://www.aaawt.com/html/hist-gallery15.html> (Antique Associates at West Townsend, Inc., West Townsend, Mass.).

^x Illustrated in “Was Pintard, Not Mooney, Founder of Tammany Hall?” *New York Times*, July 20, 1913.

^{xi} American Numismatic Society acc. no. 1925.205.1 and Massachusetts Historical Society.

October 12th, 1492. Motto: "Where Liberty Dwells There Is My Country."

- 11) Sagamore: An American eagle soaring, grasping in one talon, thirteen arrows, and in the other a roll of parchment, inscribed with the word "Constitution," this to be suspended by a scarlet ribbon over the left breast and in his right hand shall be held a tomahawk.



Tammany Indian Peace Medals

(Max B. Spiegel)

The Tammany Society was founded in New York on May 12, 1789 as a populist response to the Society of Cincinnati, which limited its membership to those who served as officers for more than three years during the American Revolution. While membership in the Society of Cincinnati was hereditary and based upon primogeniture, the Tammany Society opened its doors to all United States citizens. In the early 1800s the Tammany

Society was associated with the Democratic Party and it eventually became infamous for its political machine based at the society's headquarters, Tammany Hall. To numismatists, the Tammany Society is also known for the rare and obscure medals it issued shortly after it was founded. Some of these medals, as recent research has proven, were also presented as Indian peace medals by the Society.

The Tammany Society was named for Chief Tamanend (or Tammany), a chief of the Lenni-Lenape tribe, who promoted peace and friendship between Indians and whites during the latter half of the 17th Century. Tamanend became the subject of numerous folk legends and during the Revolution he was adopted as a larger-than-life figure representative of their struggle, the so-called "Patron Saint of America." The Society appropriated Tamanend's legacy and used what it considered to be Native American "customs." There were titles of "sachem," "warrior," and "hunter," the Society met in a building called the "wigwam," and it was composed of 13 "tribes."

The Society was officially incorporated in New York City on April 5, 1805 as "The Society of Tammany, or Columbian Order." Although other "Tammanies" were formed in different cities, the New York Tammany Society is the best known because of its political influence, particularly under Boss Tweed, who became the Grand Sachem of the Society in 1858. The New York Tammany Society continued to dominate local politics until the 1930s, when reformers were able to wrest some of its power. By the 1960s the Tammany Society ceased to exist.

Margaret Hofer, the Curator of Decorative Arts at the New-York Historical Society, has researched the first medals issued by the Tammany Society. She has found that a January 11, 1790 act in the Society's bylaws called for medals for each of the different positions within the society. While this act shows where the idea for the medals originates, it does not provide any information about the distribution of these medals. I recently found an

article that shows at least one occasion when the Tammany Society presented medals to Indian chiefs.

The October 19, 1811 issue of the *American Watchman* published the following account of the distribution of medals by the Tammany Society under the headline "OTTOWAY CHIEFS,"

On Tuesday evening last seven chiefs of the Ottoway nation, friendly to the United States, visited Tammany Society of the City of New York, agreeably to a previous invitation for that purpose. They arrived in this city from a friendly visit to the Seat of the General Government, being their first appearance amongst us. The Manhattan Society attended the Tammany, dressed and decorated in the Indian costume, which appeared peculiarly to engage the attention of the visitors.—They were received with the ceremonies customary amongst the Aborigines of our country, and were presented each with a medal and sachems badge. When approaching the Grand Sachem of the Society, and exchanging civilities he addressed them in a friendly *long talk* relative to the friendship existing between our government and their Nation, the desire of continuing the same and avoiding every thing that might tend to excite discord and enmity between us, which was translated to them by their interpreter. After which one of their number (their orator) rose and addressed the Grand Sachem in their language in reply in a manner apparently

spirited and sincere, which was translated in like manner by the interpreter. After passing round the calumet a number of patriotic songs were sung by the members of the Society, after which the Chiefs gratified the audience with several songs after the manner of their nation.

N. Y. Pat.

The article was reprinted in several other newspapers over the next few days. Significantly, it notes that the seven Indian chiefs "were presented each with a medal and sachems badge." The article is explicit that the chiefs were given the sachem's badge, as opposed to the rattlesnake member's badge. The Society's 1790 bylaws specified the design of the sachem's badge: "Be it enacted by the Society of Tammany That, to the Star badge of the Sachem shall be annexed this motto, 'Let There Be Light.'" I am not aware of any examples of this medal that have survived.

Ottoway is an antiquated name for the tribe of Indians best known as the Ottawa, which was located in present-day Ontario, Ohio, and Michigan. Probably the most famous Ottawa was Chief Pontiac, who fought against the British presence in the Great Lakes region during the French and Indian War. In the American Revolution, however, the Ottawa allied with the British. The Ottawa and Americans continued to fight after the war until 1795 when the Treaty of Greenville ceded most of Ohio to the United States.

The Ottawa were not the first Indians to be entertained by the Tammany Society. In 1790 members of the Oneida, Cayuga, and Creek Nations were hosted by the Society. The visit by the Creeks was particularly important and included a conference with Chief Alexander McGillivray, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Knox, and other prominent officials. After the seat of the United States government was moved to Philadelphia at the end of the year, however, there were fewer opportunities

for the Tammany Society to host Indian delegations. The 1811 visit by the Ottawa was therefore an unusual and exciting event for the Tammany Society.

The 1811 article refers to a “medal and sachems badge” as if these were two distinct objects. Another article from this period, however, provides some important information as to how these medals and badges were displayed. The July 11, 1810 issue of the *Rhode-Island Republican* describes the Tammany Society’s July 4th celebration in Providence. Fourth in line at the procession was the “Grand Sachem, carrying the Mallet, and wearing the badge of his office. This badge is a silver chain, composed of thirteen links, and within each link a star; a gold medal is suspended from it, on which appears the flame of Liberty dedicated to Freedom; its motto— ‘Preserve by Concord.’” Although the article is about the Rhode Island Tammany Society, this description is similar to that of the Grand Sachem’s badge found in the 1790 bylaws of the New York Tammany Society: “That the badge of the GRAND SACHEM shall be a circle of STARS encompassing an ALTAR inscribed ‘TO FREEDOM’ – and suspended by a chain from the neck; -- MOTTO, ‘PRESERVE BY CONCORD.’” This account shows that the medal is suspended from the badge and represents only one object.

The seven chiefs of the Ottoway were presented with a sachem’s badge, which likely consisted of a medal with the motto “Let There Be Light” and a star suspended from a chain. This differs from the two known types of Tammany Society medals from this period. One is a hand-engraved uniface medal of a rattlesnake, while the other is two-sided and made from struck silver shells joined together. The latter, which is known by only two examples, features Columbus’s landing on the obverse and rattlesnake design on the reverse. The struck medals are signed I. Pearson, likely for New York City silversmith John Pearson, active circa 1789 to 1813. Both types of medals contain the date Columbus first spotted land,

October 12, 1492, and the legend “Beware / Where Liberty dwells there is my country,” adopted from a quote by Benjamin Franklin. It is not clear whether the hand-engraved or struck medals were made first. These medals were used by the regular members of the New York Tammany Society. None of the other types of Tammany Society badges have come to light, which may indicate that very few were distributed.

The use of the Tammany medals as Indian peace medals is highly significant. The practice of presenting medals as a goodwill gesture in Indian diplomacy began with the English and French during the Colonial period and was continued by the United States government under George Washington. Fur traders began to issue their own peace medals in the early 1830s. The Tammany sachem’s medals, however, should now hold the distinction of being the first privately issued peace medals in the United States. Far more important than mere membership medals, the Tammany medals played a role in United States and Indian diplomacy. Perhaps an example will someday come to light.

Bibliography

Blake, Euphemia Vale. *History of the Tammany Society or Columbian Order*. New York:

Souvenir Publishing Company, 1901.

Kilroe, Edwin Patrick. *Saint Tammany and the Origin of the Society of Tammany or Columbian*

Order in the City of New York. New York: Columbia University, 1913.

Stack’s. *The New York Americana Sale*. 26 January 2010.

[By a great coincidence the Summer 2010 issue of the ANS magazine describes a Tammany medal owned by the Society. The work of John Pearson, it features a triangular hangar (for a ribbon) and was purchased at the W.W.C. Wilson sale in 1925. Catalogued "circa 1790," the piece is a decade or two later per the investigations of Hofer and Spiegel above.—Ed.]

Letters to the Editor

John,

I am attaching a picture of Mashiko holding the Carlson Award plaque (humiliating as giving a wood engraved plaque as an award for medals may be) at the Rack & Hamper Gallery on September 6, 2010. She is standing next to her sculpture "The Betty Friedan Memorial Monument." The large granite version of this is in Sag Harbor, New York. She also made this as a medal which was exhibited at FIDEM 2010.



Biography of Mashiko taken from her web site:

Mashiko was born in Tailien City, Manchuria, grew up in the city of Kyoto, Japan,

and came to the USA in 1962. She has been living in New York since 1964. Until she left Japan for the United States, Mashiko studied painting under an influential master of the time, Kazuo Tsuboi. Her work was accepted into competitions at an early age and she exhibited alongside accomplished artists. In New York, Mashiko studied at the Brooklyn Museum Art School—having been awarded a Beckman Scholarship. It was at this school that she started carving wood and in the following year began to carve stone. Her initial material — oil painting — was replaced by silk-screen printing and pen-drawing. Her childhood passion for writing turned into working in the book-art format. She found the medallic art format as a method of combined expression in the early 90's. Since then, she has been encouraging this unique expression to artists as well as promoting it to collectors. Mashiko uses any art form and material that appeals to her feelings a particular moment, however, her theme always remains a constant.

Her theme came from experiencing various conditions of unfairness in her life. When she overcame this suppressed feeling, it became clear to her that all living beings have both reason and value. She expressed her theme in the following lines:

Deep in the sea
And some unknown space in the universe I
hear new lives approaching just a little before
dawn

Donald Scarinci

Letter to John Sallay

Good morning,

I was hoping you could help me with the medal shown. Found it in my great-uncles things while clearing out my grandmother's house. Any thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

Ed Weyler

Ed,

I have not seen this particular medal before, but it is German, of a type called a Gelegenheitsmedaillen or moral medal. I think they were mostly given to children as teaching tools/reminders.

The legend at the bottom of the reverse (back) is a German proverb that means “Live as you will wish to have lived when you come to die”, and the skull is a reminder that all of us will one day die – something most children (and also I guess adults) don’t think about much. You don’t say how big this medal is, but it should be approximately the size of a half dollar. The “Loos” at the bottom of the obverse is the signature of the maker – one of a family of illustrious German medalists – and it was probably made around 1800. It looks like it is in very nice condition, except for the bump at the top of the reverse and some nicks in the edge of the obverse. These types of medals generally sell in the \$50-150 range. You should handle it by the edges and try not to get fingerprints on it, as these would detract from its value.

Hope this helps. Please let me know if you have any questions.

John Sallay

Dear John (Adams),

My thanks for the photos on page 9 in the MCA Advisory of my ANA exhibit. However, the two Nini medallions described as being in The MHS collection were actually in my exhibit.

Best regards,

Richard Margolis

Hi Dick,

I realized that when I re-visited the MHS exhibit. Their large Franklin is altogether different. My apologies but, if you would like

to give me a précis on these or other picces, I would publish it.

As ever,

John Adams

The Capture of Major André

[For the capture of the British spy, Major John André, Congress awarded medals to three members of the New York Militia: John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac Van Wart. The medals were made by repoussé, with individual citations engraved. Because each is unique, the André medals have not attracted as much attention as they deserve. Fortunately, two of our members, Margi Hofer and George Fuld have taken a strong interest in the subject. An article on these medals is coming soon.—Ed.]

Dear John,

This article from the New York Times of May 10, 1896 is quite illuminating. It fills in the background of Paulding medal before the family donated it to NY Historical Society.

I have looked for any report (police I assume) on the robbery of the medals from NYHS in 1976 but haven’t found—it may not exist.

Best,

George Fuld

Was Presented to Him by Congress
for Major Andre's Capture.

Dr. R. B. Coutant a few days ago met one of the owners of the Vanderbilt storehouse in Wilsey Street, and was invited to inspect certain articles of furniture, bric-a-brac, &c., on view there preparatory to their being sold at auction. He was informed that the goods had been in the storehouse twenty-six years, that the cause of the sale was an unpaid bill for charges overdue, and that their owner was a former resident of Tarrytown, the widow of an officer of the United States Army, the daughter of Frederick W. Paulding, the granddaughter of Gen. William Paulding of the War of 1812, who at one time was Mayor of the City of New-York, and the great-granddaughter of Gen. William Paulding of the American Revolution, one of the first members of the Provincial Congress.

Dr. Coutant having entered the storehouse looked with indifference upon the various articles of iron, wood, china, and glass presented to his view. He used for a moment over the elegant Howard presented by Col. Richard Irving Dodge by his brother officers in 1892, wondered from which of the richly cut wine glasses Lafayette drank when he was the guest of Gen. Paulding, and what the costly decanters contained on that occasion, and opened his eyes when he discovered the bookplates of J. K. Paulding.

When a certain case was opened and a couple of medals came into view he gave way to a burst of genuine enthusiasm as he verified his first impression of one of them, and its rarity and value by a critical examination.

The executor promptly expressed his desire to save to the family everything valued because of its associations, and granted the request at once.

It means to Blusell and the world at large, that the real man has not been forgotten in the old storehouse for over a century and a half. Sixteen years ago, when the centennial of the capture of Andre was celebrated here by the Nation, the State, the county, and the town, one of the grandest affairs of the kind the country has ever known, this medal lay blackening in its wrapper of yellow paper, with each name of the "pauldins" who had passed its resting place would gladly have given one-half his income for the glory of wearing it upon his breast that day.

piece of mail from his father. He said that the mind of Dr. Coutant now this interesting relic came into the possession of this branch of the family. Willem Paulding, who, as Mayor of New-York delivered the address when the monument erected by that corporation was dedicated, and John Paulding, who unravelled at Peekskill, was only a cousin of the hero. J. John Paulding was three times married, and was the father of nineteen children. While such dire misfortune may

The present custodian of the medal wrote to the writer of it immediately after it came into his possession, requesting instructions as to its disposition, but up to the present time has received no answer.

The present time has received no reply. The late Capt. John Paulding, as one of the captors of Andre, was born in the town of Middletown, east of Poughkeepsie, Oct. 12, 1788. He was the son of Joseph Paulding, Sr., who was born in the town of Poughkeepsie, and was the son of Joost Paulding, early of Philippe Manor, and an officer of the old Dutch Church in Poughkeepsie. He was a very able man, and was noted to have excelled in feats of strength. He was given the farm upon which he has been the property of a Torrey Dr. of New York City, and died near Lake Mahopac in 1840.

In our September issue, Chris Eimer theorized that UNI-15 was an entrance ticket for something with which Vernon was subsequently involved, e.g. the Anti-Gallician Society. Our good friend and co-author Fernando Chao demurs as follows:

Regarding Mr. Eimer's explanation of UNI-15, it doesn't explain the different days to be found engraved on the reverse nor does its naïve fabric match well with the sophisticated Anti-Gallician Society. My vote would be for a 19th century diorama commemorating the "glorious" conquest of Porto Bello. A diorama was designed to attract a fixed number of attendees per showing to multiple showing over time. Tickets or passes were sold and, after redeemed, re-sold once again. The use of a crude cast of the obverse of a Porto Bello medal might reinforce the 19th century dating in that the original dies would no longer have been available.

Sincerely,

Fernando Chao (h)
[Per Wikipedia, “The Diorama was a popular entertainment that originated in Paris in 1822...As many as 350 patrons

would file in to view a landscape painting [or a tableau with figures] that would change its appearance both subtly and dramatically.-Ed.]

Hi John,

I just became aware of another Admiral Vernon button variety that escaped your tome. It is brass, and about 27-28 mm in diameter and depicts a ship sailing towards a fortified sea gate. Above is the legend PORTO BELLO (thus, I guess it is related to your UNI-12). In very nice, dug condition.

What makes this piece extra special is the find site. It came from “North Redoubt,” one of the outer defenses of West Point constructed during the Revolutionary War by the Continental Army. The site of the redoubt is now known as “Fort Hill” near Garrison, NY.

All the best,

Erik Goldstein



Hello John,

Just a quick word to say that your Vernon book is a wonder. I attributed a medal of my own in two minutes. It's a PB_V 44-NN and, for the record, you might like to know that it's brass or pinchbeck (in EF), rather than the bronze you note.

All the best,

Chris Faulkner

Naughty on Stacks

With the publication of *Medallic Portraits of Admiral Vernon*, we believed that the days of 20-30% error rates in attributing Vernon medals were over. Not so. In its September 30th American sale, Stacks mis-attributed lots 4021 and 4028. How could this happen, we pondered? The cataloguers at Stacks are extremely bright numismatists and any fool can compare any medal to the high quality images in the book. Then, it dawned on us: Stacks had taken the McCormick-Goodhart attributions of the consignor and then copied down the Adams-Chao number in the concordance.—i.e. they “reverse engineered” the concordance without bothering to compare the medal to the plates, thus guaranteeing that any mistakes made by the consignor would be repeated. Naughty on Stacks.—Ed.

Columbus Medal

I received this email inquiring about a medal apparently issued for a Columbus memorial dedication in Washington D.C. Can someone in our illustrious group provide more information about it? The image is not great but perhaps with the description, it can be identified.

David Menchell

David,

I found your information on the MCA website. I have a medal I am trying to determine if it has any value. I have attached a couple pictures. I'm sorry they are not the best please let me know if you can help or point me in the right direction

Thank you
Brian Kampper
Clayton, NC

The upper part of the medal has the following inscription:
RICORDOCOMMEMORATIVODELIINNAUGU
RAZIONEDELMONUMENTO A
CHRISTOFORO COLOMBO. The bottom round
part has a picture I guess of the Memorial and
around the edge is: WASHINGTON,DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA JUNE 8 1912



Dear David,

While I have not seen this before, it appears to relate to the dedication of the Columbus Fountain and Statue located outside Union Station in Washington DC. I am attaching links for two internet sites - one provides photos of the statue, while the other describes the annual wreath laying ceremony that takes place there on Columbus Day.

http://www.dcmemorials.com/index_indiv0000030.htm

<http://dc.about.com/od/hoildaysseasonalevents/a/ColumbusDay.htm>

Scott Miller

Dear David,

Since the pictures are useless, we have to go with the verbal description. The inscription basically says (based on my shaky-at-best Italian and with help from Babelfish) COMMEMORATIVE MEMORIAL [MOMENTO?] OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE MONUMENT TO CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, with the reverse inscription readily readable. Here is a website describing the monument and its dedication
<http://www.vanderkrogt.net/statues/object.php?record=usdc07&webpage=LE>.

Is that the US Capitol at the top or some other building?

Bob Fritsch